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Meryl Nass, MD
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Dear Dr. Nass,

This is a belated response to your interesting letter of August 26, 1991. The enclosed copy of my letter to Mr Johnson explains in part my dilatory tactics.

I now have read your April 22, 1991 draft of a short summary of the Zimbabwe anthrax epidemic, 1978-80, and the two reprints Kobuch et al (1989) and Davies (1982) and thank you for them. I don't have enough knowledge of Zimbabwe to have the right to an opinion about your proposition that this 1980 epizootic was of "artificial" origin, but I fear that you will have a tough time winning much acceptance, but I commend your imagination and initiative in raising the important question.

More important I am in full agreement with the last sentence in your letter to me: "My hope is to interest excellent epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists in setting appropriate criteria, and thus have analyses such as these accepted by mainstream medicine (emphasis mine). You should know that I have indulged a substantial portion of my career since 1947 to this objective. It was the dominant force in the establishment of the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the CDC in 1951. Recent events during the past decade, CW in the Middle East and the Sverdlovsk anthrax epidemic have perhaps provided an opening toward achieving this goal. I hope you keep up your interest and action.

Are you acquainted with Dr. Peter Barss (address listed below). He too is interested in the same broad issues and has written persuasively of the need for better epidemiology in the investigation of CBTW episodes in the future. His article is due to appear in Mr. Johnson Journal.

Also have you gotten in touch with Dr. Philip S. Brachman in Atlanta. He is the best informed person on the epidemiology of anthrax that I know. Write to him as you wrote to me.

Also do you know Dr. James H. Steele of Houston, TX. He is known as Mr Veterinary Public Health of the world and has an intense interest in anthrax in particular as well as all diseases of animals transmissible to man. Get in touch with him too.

The small group of us who care should hang together.

Sincerely yours,

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